

Sample News Release

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DATE

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THE UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

CITY, UTAH— Students and faculty in the Career and Technical Education programs in junior highs and high schools throughout Utah will celebrate Career and Technical Education Month, February 2007. Among the special activities scheduled are [name/time/date/place of events open to the public]. This year's theme for the month-long celebration is: CTE Pathways – Giving Students the Edge. The theme emphasizes the role of Career and Technical Education and its business/industry partnerships, which allow students to step out of the classroom into the real world, where they can gain a better understanding of the job skills, which will enable them to be successful in the 21st century.

"We hope to have a crowd of interested community residents at each of the special activities we have planned," said [name], director of the school. "We want them to see the level of skills students gain here and how, working with people from the business community, we're preparing young people to be productive workers and community leaders."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18 of the 20 fastest growing occupations within the next decade will require Career and Technical Education. Research shows that among high school graduates entering the workforce, those with a technical education background earn more than those without this advantage. In Utah, Career and Technical Education provides students with the academic knowledge and workplace skills needed for a successful high paying career. There are many high-tech jobs in Utah that students can perform as a result of taking CTE courses while in high school. CTE jump-starts students' careers by preparing them for jobs while still in, or just out of, high school. Students have an advantage of increasing their earning power by entering the job market early.

CTE programs are offered in all

- 40 school districts
- 141 middle schools
- 109 high schools with over 131,000 students participating in CTE training in grades 9-12

CTE Areas of Study

- Agricultural Education
- Business Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Health Science and Technology Education
- Information Technology Education
- Marketing Education
- Technology and Engineering Education
- Trade and Technical Education

Nationally there are 11 million secondary and post-secondary career and technical education students, according to the U.S. Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Many post-secondary institutions in Utah offer technical programs, including universities, colleges, technical colleges, and other public and private two-year and four-year colleges.

- In Utah, there are over 213,000 secondary and post-secondary CTE students.

Is there any proof CTE works?

Yes.

- Students who take two or more CTE courses are less likely to drop out of high school.
- High School CTE programs prepare students for the many high paying, high-tech jobs requiring less than a bachelor's degree.
- Students concentrating in CTE have tests scores equal to those who are "college prep" students.

How can I learn more about CTE?

Talk to your school counselor or contact the Utah State Office of Education, or access our Web site at www.utahcte.org

For more information about [name of school], call [phone].